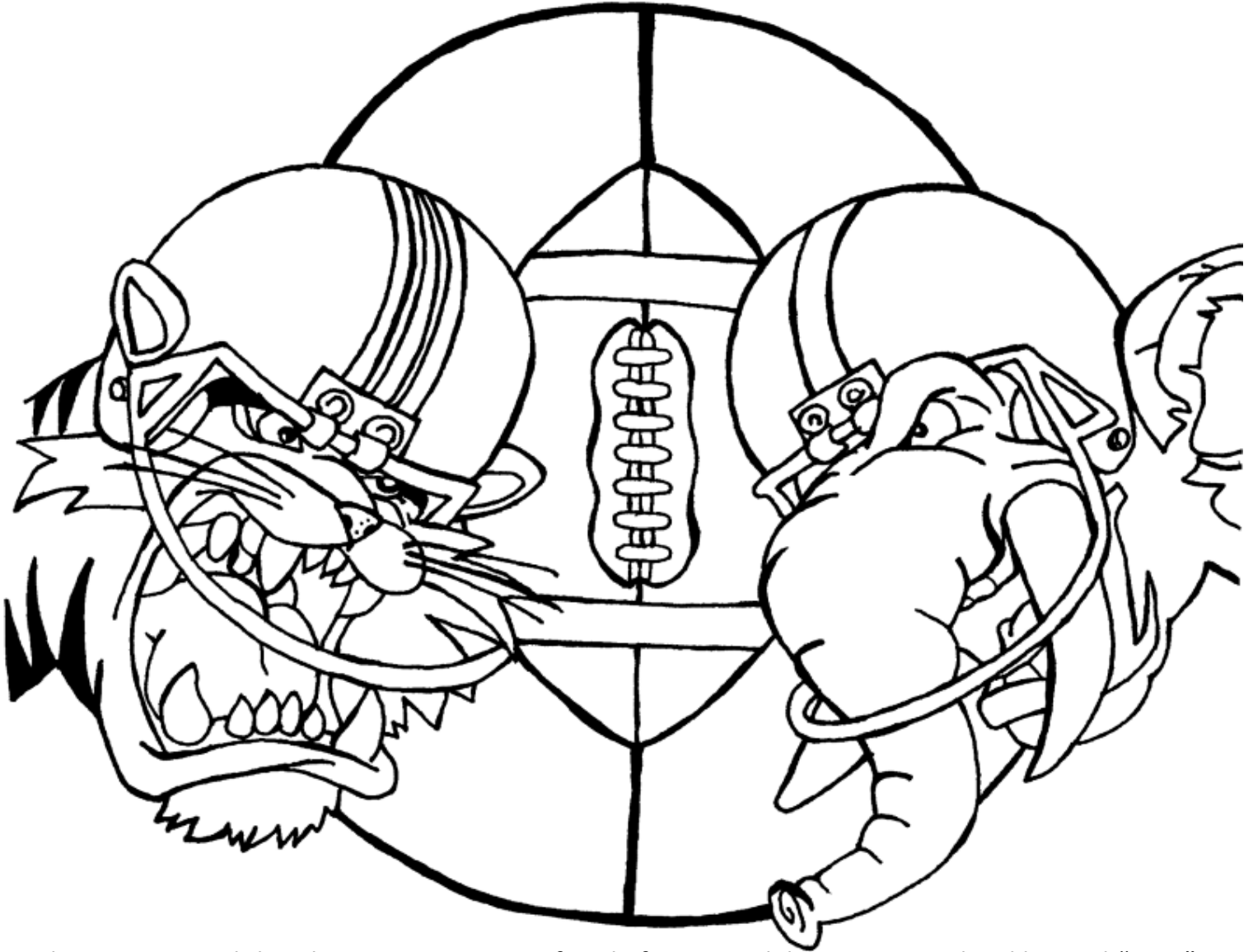


Iron Rivalry

College football in the Deep South started in 1892 with a game between Auburn University and the University of Georgia. That same year, students at the University of Alabama put together a team and played Auburn for the first time the following season. Auburn won that game, but it was only the beginning of one of sports' greatest rivalries. Since then, Alabama and Auburn have spent decades building two of the best football programs in the nation. Each year, since 1948, these two giants have clashed in a game dubbed "The Iron Bowl" after the "Iron City" of Birmingham where it was previously played.



These teams and their history are a point of pride for most Alabamians. Coaches like Paul "Bear" Bryant, Pat Dye, Gene Stallings, and Ralph "Shug" Jordan, to name a few, are renowned personal heroes with many buildings, monuments, and awards bearing their names. Players like Bo Jackson, Julio Jones, and many others are revered as well. Both teams have substantial winning records and are typically in the running for the SEC Championship or National Championship in most seasons. Whether taken seriously or half-heartedly, this football rivalry is an important part of Alabama's state identity.



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